

Attorney Docket #10961260-3

Remarks/Arguments***A. Examiner's Remarks***

Claims 1, 2, and 4-6 were objected to because of informalities.

Claims 1, 2, and 4-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by USPN 5,686,344 to Lee.

B. Claim Informalities

Claims 1, 2, and 4-6 were objected to because of informalities. In accordance with the Examiner's suggestions, the following amendments were made to claim 1:

Line 7: The word "the" was inserted after "only"

Line 9: The word "a" was replaced with "the"

Line 9: The words "which extends" were replaced with "extending"

Line 13: The colon was replaced with a semi-colon

In accordance with the Examiner's suggestions, the following amendments were made to claim 5:

Line 7: The word "the" was inserted after "only"

Line 9: The word "a" was replaced with "the"

Line 9: The words "which extends" were replaced with "extending"

These amendments were made for the purpose of correcting informalities only. No new matter has been introduced with this amendment. The objections to the claims are believed to be overcome.

C. Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1, 2, and 4-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by USPN 5,686,344 to Lee.

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Lee teaches an isolation structure that is topped with isolation film (Figure 4J). The sidewalls stop short at the isolation film and therefore do not extend all the way to the surface of the substrate.

In distinct contrast to Lee, the present invention teaches that the shallow region sidewalls reach all the way up to the surface of the substrate. This distinction is found in claims 1 and 5, which have been amended to recite that the sidewalls extend to the surface of the substrate. Independent claims 1 and 5 are believed to be allowable based on this feature. Dependent claims 2 and 4-6 are also believed to be allowable, based on the allowability of claims 1 and 5.

No new matter has been introduced with this amendment. The rejections to claims 1, 2, and 4-6 are believed to be overcome.

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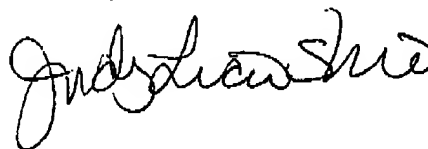
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Conclusion

If there are any further questions or if more discussion is required, the Examiner is invited to call the Applicants' agent at the telephone number given below. In view of the above, the claims presently in the application are believed to be distinct over the cited references and in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that such allowance be granted at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,

Min Cao, et al.



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Patent Reg. No. 50,305

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